REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are now pending in this application. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's finding, on the record, that claims 1-9, 11, and 12 are allowed. The amendments presented herein place the remaining claims in condition for allowance, for the following reasons.

Claim 10 has been cancelled by this amendment, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 USC 112.

Claims 13, 16, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 112, since the term "slide" did not find antecedent basis in the specification. Although terms appearing in the originally filed claims can be added to the specification, the term "component" was used in the specification, to refer to the slides. Accordingly, these claims have been amended to eliminate the term "slide" and to replace it with the term "slideable component". On page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 14, the specification shows explicit support for the use of the term "component" and the fact that the component is meant to slide. The rejection should, therefore, be withdrawn.

Claim 16 has is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for lacking antecedent basis for the term "injection molding". The Examiner is directed to page 8, lines 30-31, where injection molding is disclosed in the original specification. This rejection, therefore, is respectfully traversed.

The rejection of claims 13 and 18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for use of the term "demolding" has been addressed by replacing the term "demolding" with the term "ejecting", as suggested by the Examiner.

The rejection of claim 19, under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, due to the ambiguity of the term "in the vicinity of" has been addressed by replacing "in the vicinity of" with "adjacent to". Those skilled in the art will reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention, by this amendment.

All claims are, therefore, in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 337842011000.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

4. (Amended) The venting plug as claimed in claim 3 wherein the coupling portion comprises a center cylindrical portion, and at least two [the] flanges extending radially from the cylindrical portion.

13. (Amended) A method of producing a venting plug for use with a wet, lead-acid electric storage battery comprising a container, a cover, the container and cover defining one or more cell cavities, the cover defining cylindrically shaped process holes associated with each cell cavity, said venting being adapted for insertion into said process holes to provide gaseous communication between said cell cavities and the atmosphere, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mold for molding a [generally] substantially cylindrical venting plug body, said mold having an upper half and a lower half, said lower half comprising a solid plate for forming at least one sealing surface of the plug body without a parting line and at least one [slide] slideable component for forming at least one coupling flange along a peripheral surface of the venting plug body,

molding a venting plate body having at least one sealing surface and a coupling flange,

opening the mold, and

[demolding] ejecting the venting plug body from the mold, the venting plug body having a sealing surface that displays no mold parting line.

15. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the opening the mold step includes the step of molding a venting plug body having a coupling flange in the form of a [threads] thread extending about the body.

16. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the opening the mold step comprises the steps of sliding the at least one [slide] slideable component out of engagement with the molded body, and separating the upper and lower halves of the mold, and said step of molding a first material comprises the step of injection molding a polypropylene material.

18. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the step of [demolding] ejecting comprises the step of advancing an ejector pin to eject the molded body from the lower half solid plate.

19. (Amended) A mold for molding the body of a venting plug for use with a wet, lead-acid electric storage battery comprising a container, a cover, the container and cover defining at least one cell cavity, the cover defining a cylindrically shaped process hole associated said cell cavity, said venting plug having a body having at least one sealing surface adapted to receive a seal and to be inserted into said process hole to provide gaseous communication between said cell cavity and the atmosphere, said body having at least one flange for coupling the venting plug to the cover, said mold comprising:

an upper half, and

a lower half,

said lower half comprising a solid plate for forming said sealing surface on said venting plug body whereby said solid plate does not result in a mold parting line in said sealing surface, at least one [slide] slideable component adapted to form said flange, said [slide] slideable component being slideably disposed such that the upper half and the solid plate are separable

along a first axis, and said [slide] slideable component is moveable relative to the solid plate along a second axis disposed at an angle to the first axis whereby a parting line may be formed [in the vicinity of] adjacent to the flange.

20. (Amended) The mold as claimed in claim 19 comprising two [slides] slideable components for forming the coupling flange, said [slides] slideable components being moveable relative to the solid plate.